

What is Claimed Is

1. A process using dry ice (CO₂, solid carbon dioxide) particles for in-situ cleaning of abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surfaces which have been loaded up with removed material(s) generated during the sanding, planing and/or grinding procedure, wherein solid CO₂ particles are directed at a high velocity towards the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface and caused to impact the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface in such a way as to remove the contaminants from the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface and result in a clean, or renewed, abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface.

2. Process in accordance with claim 1 wherein suction is applied to the dry ice particle application area during the cleaning process to capture, contain and/or collect the removed contaminants from the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface.

3. Process in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning area is located in the sanding, planing or grinding equipment so that the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding apparatus does not have to be stopped or removed from the sanding, planing or grinding equipment.

4. Process in accordance with claim 1 wherein the sanding, planing and/or grinding apparatus is removed from the sanding, planing or grinding equipment and the cleaning area is located remotely, or at another location, away from the sanding, planing or grinding equipment.

5. Process in accordance with claim 1 wherein the solid CO₂ particles are directed at a high velocity towards the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface either with a hand-held dispensing device or a dispensing device connected to an x-axis and/or a y-axis motion control device or apparatus.

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